

SHEAN, CHARLES M.

DRAWER 19A

ARTISTS - S

HL 2009. 085. 02503




# Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Charles M. Shean

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

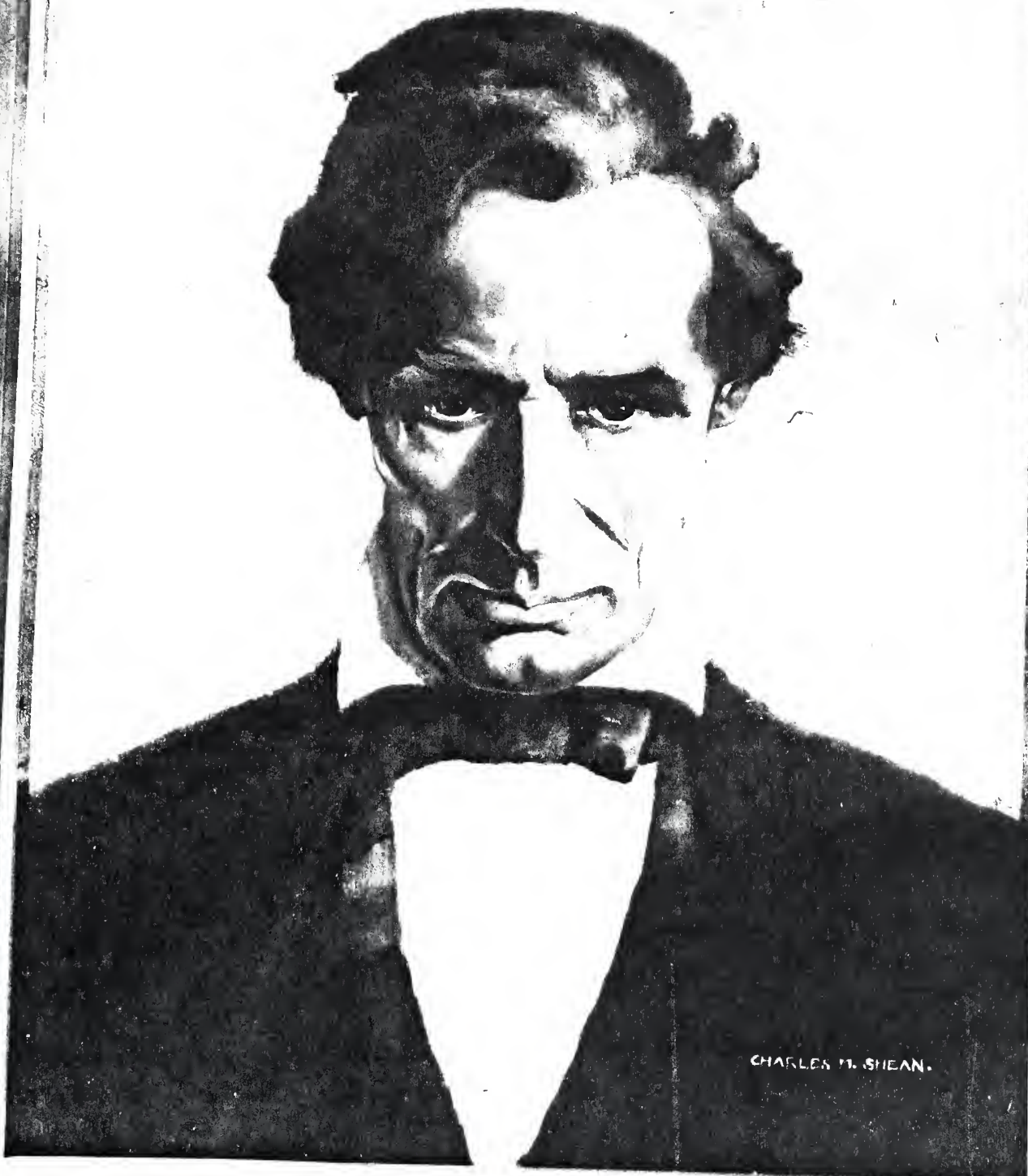
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PHOTOCOPY  
(original in safe)







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UNVEILING OF  
PORTRAIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

In Commemoration of the  
Fiftieth Anniversary of the Admission of Nevada  
into the Union "upon an equal footing  
with the Original States"

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
Carson City, March 14, 1915

## THE SHEAN LINCOLN

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The Lincoln portrait this day unveiled is the product of the American artist, Charles M. Shean of New York. Mr. Shean was a student of art at the Art Students' League, New York and Paris, and is a member of the National Society of Mural Painters and of the Architectural League of New York. He was awarded a medal for mural painting at the St. Louis Exposition, 1904. Author of "A Plea for Americanism in the Decoration of Public Buildings" and of "Mural Painting from the American Point of View."

Relative to the Lincoln portrait, Mr. Shean says:

"The painting is an original work and \* \* \* is the result of months of close study in which all possible material was exhaustively studied and compared. Every effort has been made to produce a characteristic and lifelike portrait and one which I am convinced has the value of a historical document."

Ida M. Tarbell, one of Lincoln's biographers, has written of this portrait: "It is one of the few—Oh, very few!—paintings of Mr. Lincoln which I have seen, which I felt was worth while."

"It deserves," says Horatio C. King, son of Horatio King of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, "to be the accepted likeness for all time."

## SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

3:30 P. M.

Overture -----Carson Band

Invocation -----Rev. Lloyd B. Thomas

Music—Star-Spangled Banner -----Carson Band

During the playing of this selection the Portrait will be  
unveiled by Master Lewis Hamilton Beason and Master  
Abraham Lincoln Kendall.

Presentation of Portrait on behalf of the Lincoln Portrait

Committee -----Governor Emmet D. Boyle

Song—My Own United States -----University Quartette

Reading—The Perfect Tribute -----Adele C. Norcross

Song -----University Quartette

The Soldiers of the Blue and the Gray -----Hon. H. F. Bartine

Music—Medley of National Airs -----Carson Band

Address -----Hon. George A. Bartlett

Music—America -----Carson Band

Audience requested to join in singing.

## LINCOLN PORTRAIT COMMITTEE

Created by Act of the Legislature, approved March 4, 1915

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Hon. Emmet D. Boyle -----Governor  
Hon. Frank H. Norcross----- Chief Justice  
Hon. Maurice J. Sullivan-----President of the Senate  
Hon. Allen G. McBride -----Speaker of the Assembly  
Hon. George F. Talbot-----President State Historical Society

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## COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS

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On behalf of the Senate:

Hon. Milton L. Lee,  
Hon. W. P. Harrington,  
Hon. W. A. Keddie,

On behalf of the Assembly:

Hon. Lewis H. Beason,  
Hon. James E. Babcock,  
Hon. J. W. Ferguson.





# LINCOLN IN TWO ARTISTS' VIEWS

## Widely Different Versions Are Revealed.

### ONE PAINTED FROM LIFE

### Other From the Records With Higher Truth as Aim.

Two more portraits of Abraham Lincoln have recently come to light. One painted from life by Daniel Huntington and removed from public sight since 1884; the other a work based on a study of all available records and painted by the late Charles H. Shean. The first is now on view at the Macbeth Galleries, the other is being shown at the Grant Studios, 114 Remsen street, Brooklyn. Taken together, they afford a basis for speculation as to what portrait of Lincoln should be accepted as really revealing the man.

Robert Willson of 24 Bank street, who has made an exhaustive study of the subject and has long been interested in the preservation and perpetuation of a proper portrait of Lincoln, furnishes interesting details concerning the Shean canvas and others that the artist painted of the same subject.

Shean, who died in 1925, was primarily a mural painter. He laid out the color scheme for the murals in the 'old Waldorf-Astoria, and later was commissioned to do the murals in the Hotel Plaza, Hotel Manhattan, Claridge and Martinique. At the height of his career in this field he became convinced of the inadequacy of the existing portraits of Lincoln and gave up virtually all other work to endeavor to supply the deficiency.

#### Thought Them Unsatisfactory.

"He held the opinion," Mr. Willson said, "that many—too many, in fact—of the alleged portraits of Lincoln went unwarrantably to one extreme or the other—that is, in an excess of endeavor to paint a perfect likeness, an awkward, boorish, uncouth picture, little more than a caricature was produced; or in going to the other extreme the attempt often led to an idealism which failed to develop the great ability, depth of character, purposeful power and indomitable will that marked the real Lincoln.

"He spent several years in pursuit of all available Lincoln material, devoted many months to studying the many photographs and pictures as well as the masks, from that of Volk in 1860 to the Mills mask of 1865.

"The result of his research work and his series of life-size sketches and study after study finally resulted in what Mr. Shean believed to be an actually adequate portrait of the great Lincoln—accurate without being grotesque, full of beauty of

TWO NEW VERSIONS OF LINCOLN



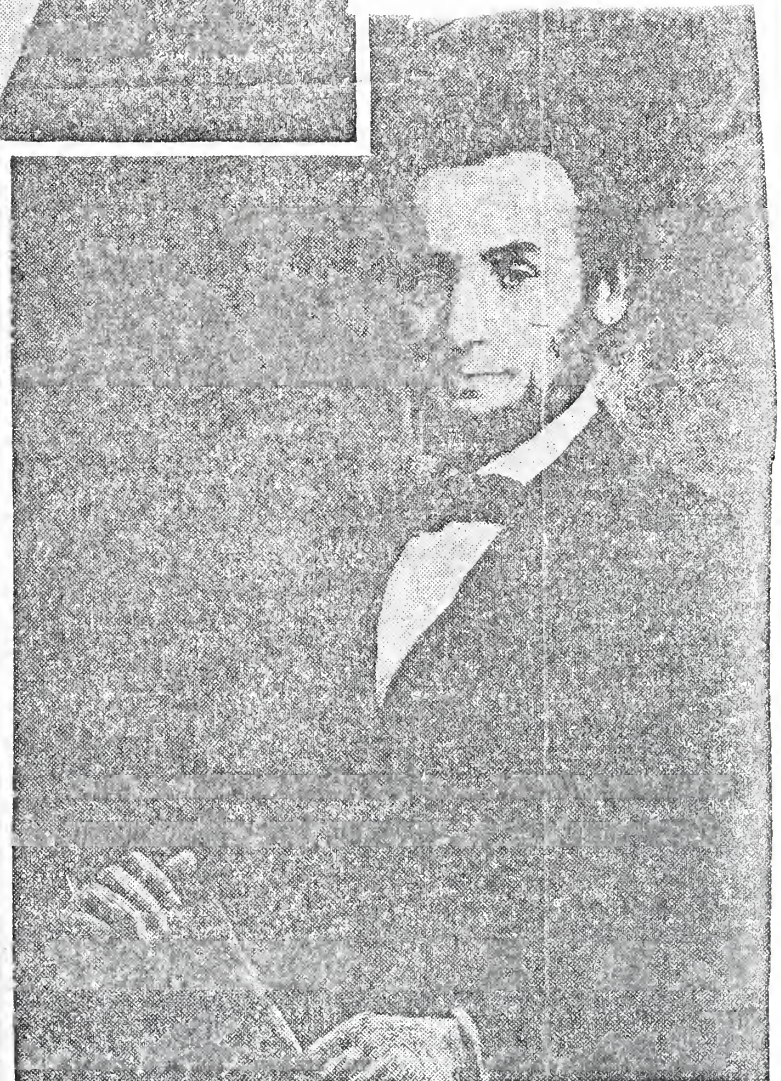
From the portrait painted by the late Charles H. Shean. Shown at the Grant Studios, 114 Remsen street, Brooklyn.

the post of vice-president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"It is to be assumed that Huntington liked these himself well enough to keep them by him, for they do not appear on a list of portraits (carefully kept by him) which he painted to order and listed as he turned them over to the sitters.

"In 1884 the portraits were sold to a family named De Witt, as evidenced by a letter which the Macbeth Gallery has on record from the artist's secretary to Mr. De Witt. The paintings have remained in the De Witt family since that time."

This portrait of Lincoln, by the way, has already been sold to a Western collector, though it and the companion canvas will remain on view at the gallery for the next two weeks.



From the portrait painted from life by Daniel Huntington on view at the Macbeth Galleries.





soul and character without being idealized beyond any resemblance to the man sought to be portrayed.

"In 1915 when the Nevada State Commission took up the matter of a Lincoln portrait to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 'battle-born' State they went to Washington, to the Corcoran Gallery and elsewhere, asking for advice as to whom to intrust the commission. They were referred to Irving R. Wiles as the then foremost portrait painter in America. They came to New York and consulted Wiles, who declined the commission on the ground that Shean had produced the best portrait of Lincoln extant, and Wiles therefore sent them to him.

"The State of Nevada then obtained what many competent authorities have described as the best portrait of Lincoln.

"Shean painted various other portraits of Lincoln, differing in details of pose, but all characterized by the same expression of soul and character."

The Shean Lincoln portraits now shown in Brooklyn—there are really two identical except that one is a half-length and the other the head only—are of this series, and most interesting and virile productions.

#### **The Huntington Portraits.**

There is no mystery about the Macbeth Gallery Lincoln portraits—for there are also two of them, one being of Mrs. Lincoln. Concerning them a gallery spokesman had this to say:

"The Huntington portraits of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln are recent additions to the few on record as having been painted from life. While at least two posthumous portraits of Lincoln by Huntington are known to exist, one of them being the large canvas owned by the Union League Club and commissioned by the club in 1865, it had not been known until the recent discovery of these pictures that Huntington was one of the group who painted Lincoln and his wife from actual sittings.

"The information as to this appears on the back of each canvas in Huntington's own printed characters. On Lincoln's is simply the record 'From Sitting.' On the reverse of the portrait of Mary Todd are the words 'Painted from Sitting. The same period as President Lincoln's, which was painted first. Daniel Huntington.'

"The pictures are believed to have been painted in 1865, when Huntington was serving his first term as president of the National Academy and shortly before he was elected to





FEB 15 1932

THE NEW YORK SUN, MOI

TWO NEW VERSIONS OF LINCOLN

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12  
April 6th. 1932

Mr. L. A. Warren  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren

I enclose the data on the "Shean" portrait of Lincoln, with which you are undoubtedly familiar and which I am recalling to your attention, at this time, because it is being offered by the P. Jackson Higgs Gallery of New York at the very attractive price of five thousand dollars.

I am engaged in special publicity work for some of the New York Galleries, and, knowing of your wide acquaintance among collectors of Lincoln, am writing in the hope that you may offer some suggestions as to the placing of this portrait.

Assuring you that any such advice will be deeply appreciated, I am,

Yours very truly

*Nettie R. Arnold*

Nettie R. Arnold,  
15 Claremont Avenue,  
New York City.



## THE ACCEPTED LIKENESS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Within the comparatively short time since the death of Lincoln, the figure of the Emancipator has been seriously distorted by the forces of legend and adoration. In the field of art, distortion has taken the form of portraits and statues over-emphasizing particular characteristics of the man, usually his gaunt figure and sympathetic kindliness.

Among the portraitists of Lincoln, Shean is, perhaps, pre-eminent as a painter of the real Lincoln. He devoted unceasing effort to searching the records and the likenesses drawn, painted and engraved during the great President's lifetime, and he painted, in all, seven portraits of Lincoln.

The painting which is the subject of this volume was bought directly from the artist's widow, and is almost identical with the canvas unveiled in the Assembly Chamber of the Nevada Legislature in 1915, and which may be looked upon as the accepted likeness of Lincoln, as the comments of two authorities, quoted below, indicate.

### Opinion of Horatio King

Horatio C King, son of Horatio C. King of Lincoln's own cabinet, wrote to Shean - "After the most careful consideration I do not hesitate to say that I regard your portrait of Mr. Lincoln, the three quarter face with hair slightly falling over the forehead, as the most satisfactory I have seen. It recalls most vividly the features of the great Commoner, when President, as I was accustomed to see him. It deserves to be the accepted likeness for all time. The success of your long and painstaking efforts is worthy, not only of the highest praise, but also of the gratitude of the American people.

Yours very truly

(Signed) Horatio C. King"





### Opinion of Ida M. Tarbell

Mr. King's opinion, that of an eye-witness, is supported by the opinion of Ida M. Tarbell, one of the best known of Lincoln's biographers, who says: -

"It is one of the few paintings of Mr. Lincoln which I have seen which I have felt was worth while."

### An Historical Document

Charles M. Shean himself wrote:- "The painting is an original work and is the result of close study in which all material was exhaustively studied and compared. Every effort was made to produce a characteristic and lifelike portrait, and one which I am convinced has the value of an historical document."

### Record and Authenticity

This portrait of Lincoln, by Charles M. Shean, was purchased by the Ainslie Galleries, Inc. directly from the artist's widow, so that its record of authenticity is not open to any question.

### Shean Portrait of Lincoln

Charles M. Shean painted at least seven portraits of Lincoln during his lifetime. Of the canvas which is the subject of this volume, what has been said of the Shean Lincoln unveiled in the Assembly Chamber of the Nevada Legislature in 1915, on the occasion of the State's Fiftieth anniversary of Admission, may be repeated. It is one of three which are almost identical.

### Charles M. Shean

The name of Charles M. Shean is familiar to every student of American painting; and especially notable in the list of his canvases are his likenesses

## Introduction

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effects of the proposed system on the performance of the system. The study is divided into two main parts: a theoretical analysis and an experimental evaluation. The theoretical analysis is presented in Chapter 2, and the experimental evaluation is presented in Chapter 3.

## Theoretical Analysis

The theoretical analysis is divided into two main parts: a general analysis and a specific analysis. The general analysis is presented in Section 2.1, and the specific analysis is presented in Section 2.2. The general analysis is a high-level overview of the system, and the specific analysis is a detailed analysis of the system's components.

### General Analysis

The general analysis is a high-level overview of the system. It is divided into two main parts: a description of the system and a description of the system's components. The description of the system is presented in Section 2.1.1, and the description of the system's components is presented in Section 2.1.2.

### Specific Analysis

The specific analysis is a detailed analysis of the system's components. It is divided into two main parts: a description of the system's components and a description of the system's performance. The description of the system's components is presented in Section 2.2.1, and the description of the system's performance is presented in Section 2.2.2.

## Experimental Evaluation

The experimental evaluation is a detailed analysis of the system's performance. It is divided into two main parts: a description of the system's performance and a description of the system's components. The description of the system's performance is presented in Section 3.1, and the description of the system's components is presented in Section 3.2.



of Abraham Lincoln. Charles M. Shean was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., studied at the Art Student's League of New York and in Paris, and became a member of the National Society of Mural Painters and of the Architectural League of New York.

He received the medal for mural painting at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904. Ardently American in matters of Art, he wrote "A Plea for Americanism in the Decoration of Public Buildings" (1901) and "Mural Paintings from the American Point of View". It was this ardent Americanism, too, which led him to devote so much of his time and energy to the search for the true Lincoln. He died in 1925.



Shean, Chas M - Cawley

April 9, 1932

Mrs. Nettie R. Arnold  
15 Claremont Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Madam:

We are constantly having inquiries here about Lincoln portraits which are available and will be very glad indeed to place on file the information you have enclosed and will be pleased to advise you of anyone who shows an interest in this particular item.

Very sincerely yours,

Director

LAW:LH



6

January 28, 1934

Mr. Louis R. Warren, Director,  
Lincoln Historical Research  
Foundation

Dear Sir

Last August we had  
a little correspondence  
regarding the Lincoln  
portraits painted by  
my husband, the late  
Charles M. Skraw.

To my deep regret  
you did not see fit to  
purchase any of the  
photographs.

I am mailing in  
separate folder one





of these photographs.  
also a clipping from  
the "New York Sun"  
relating to the portrait.

Please accept the  
photograph for the  
Lincoln Historical Research  
Foundation with my com-  
pliments.

I would like your  
society to have at  
least one, and would  
appreciate its display,  
if possible. Thank you.

Very sincerely yours,  
Mary Sheaw  
(Mrs.) Chas. M. Sheaw  
75 Van Buren St.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.





7  
August 9, 1933.

Mr. Louis A. Warren;

Dear Sir,

Having been informed that the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has sponsored a Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, of which you are director, I am taking the liberty of addressing you.

The late Charles M. Shean, my husband, painted a number of Lincoln portraits, solely from the life mask, in various poses. One three quarter length was purchased by the State of Nevada, and is now hanging in the Capitol of Carson City.

Mr. Shean's aim was to show the great President as he really was, without any attempt at idealization. I am enclosing herewith clippings to give you a slight idea of the paintings.

I have at present the bust portrait pictured in the "New York Sun," also a



three quarter length, with head  
in similar position, but wear-  
ing a beard.

Have also photographs  
of these portraits, and of  
the portrait in Nevada, and  
the bust portrait to which  
Miss Tarbell referred.

I should be glad to  
send one or more of these  
photographs for a nominal  
sum, and would be happy  
to sell a portrait for a very  
reasonable price.

May I hope to hear  
from you? Thank you.

Mary Shean  
75 Van Buren St.  
Brooklyn,  
New York.



*Mrs. Mary Shean*  
*(cl. sh) photographs*  
*15th mark*  
*11/11/33*

August 30, 1933

Mrs. Mary Shean  
75 Van Buren St.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

Thank you very much for submitting to us information relating to the portrait of Abraham Lincoln taken by your husband.

While I do not think we would be in a position to acquire the oil painting, we might wish to have some reproduction or photographs of his work such as you suggest are available.

If you will kindly advise me as to how much they are, and if the price seems satisfactory, we will be glad to order them.

We will also be glad to keep on file here the information you sent us about the paintings as we have many inquiries in here for material of this kind and I expect our files on Lincolniana are as complete as any in America.

We are returning the clippings of a personal nature which we feel you would like to keep, retaining one or two that deal directly with the portrait.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:EB  
Encs.

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation





September 4, 1933

Mr. Louis A. Warren,  
Director, Lincoln Historical  
Research Foundation;

Dear Sir,

Many thanks  
for your kind letter  
of August 30. I have  
photographs of almost  
all the Lincoln portraits  
painted by my husband,  
and will be very happy  
to sell any or all of them.

One is approximate-  
ly 6"x8", photograph of the  
Nevada portrait, which  
is a three quarter length  
figure, at \$2.00; one 6½"x9½"  
same picture, at \$2.50 and

One front view of head,  
bust picture, without  
beard; subject of the  
article in "New York  
Sun," this photograph,  
is  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ ; including the  
frame it is  $7 \times 9$ , at \$2.50

Any of these may  
be had in glossy or  
mat finish.

Sincerely yours.

Mary Sheaw,

(Mrs. Chas. M. Sheaw)

75 Van Buren St.

Brooklyn

New York



one 10" x 13" at \$5.00 each.

Then I have one  
best picture, of head  
admiral by Miss Ida  
Larbell, which is the  
same view of head as  
in the Nevada portrait,  
in  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " size, at \$3.00

One best picture, same  
view of head, (which is  
three quarter view) but  
with hair in different  
arrangement, 7" x 9" at \$2.50

One standing three  
quarter length figure,  
 $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9", head in front  
view, with beard, \$1.00



February 2, 1934

Mrs. Charles M. Shean  
75 Van Buren St.,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Shean:

Please feel that we appreciate very much your forwarding to us a photograph of the painting done by Mr. Shean.

Our failure to acquire the items which you have for sale is not due to our lack of appreciation but a very strict economy which we have been practicing here at the Foundation for the past month.

We will be very glad indeed to call to the attention of visitors who care to look through our painting file the very excellent likeness of Mr. Shean's work.

Thanking you again for your courtesy,

I am

Respectfully yours,

LAW:EB

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation







## PHILBROOK ART CENTER

A PROPERTY OF THE SOUTHWESTERN ART ASSOCIATION

2727 SOUTH ROCKFORD ROAD

TELEPHONE 4-7141

TULSA 5, OKLAHOMA

VICTOR C. HURT, PRESIDENT

March 15th, 1948.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Philbrook Art Center recently acquired a large collection of paintings. In this group of paintings there were several which were earmarked for sale. Among this group is a painting of Abraham Lincoln, by Shean. It is an unusually strong painting and one which has attracted considerable attention. Knowing that you are particularly interested in objects of art concerning Lincoln, I am writing to you with the thought that in case you are interested in this painting we might forward it to you for inspection. The enclosed photograph is not a good one, however, it will at least give you an idea of the subject.

I shall be glad to hear from you concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

VCH:EG

Enc.



March 22, 1948

Mr. Victor C. Hurt, President  
Philbrook Art Center  
2727 South Rockford Road  
Tulsa, 5, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Hurt:

The policy which we have been pursuing here for several years does not allow us to invest in original or early paintings; however, we do often have inquiries for such items and would be pleased to keep the picture in our files in order that we might call attention to it for those who are in the market for such items.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director



1914

1914

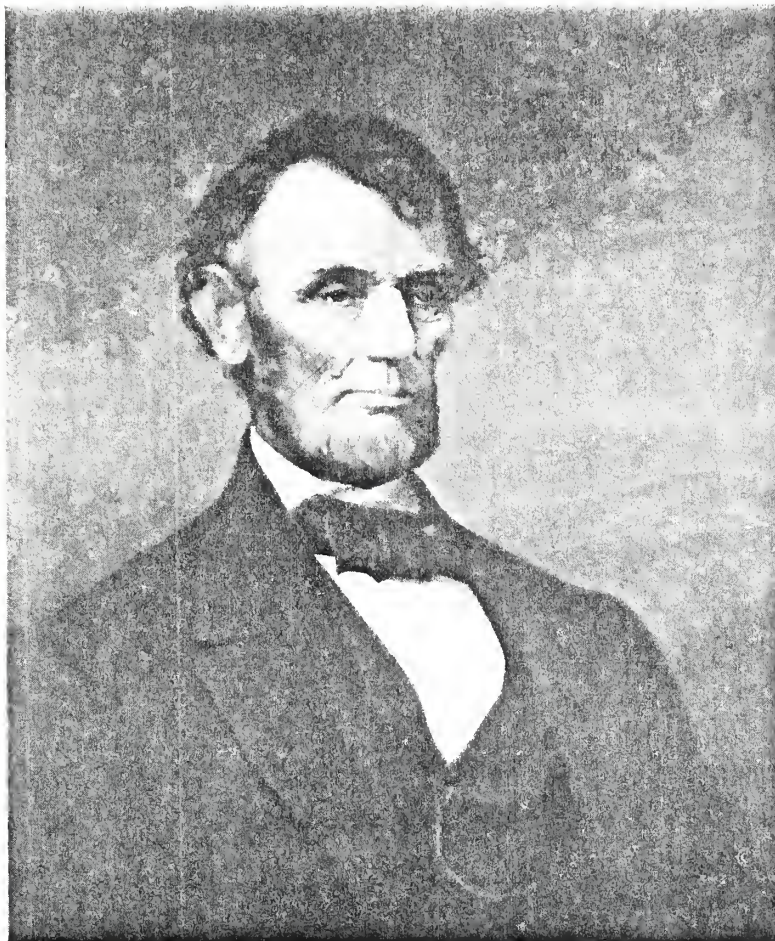
1914

1914

1914

1914

1914



30. PORTRAIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Painted by Charles M. Shean, 1912. This painting of Lincoln is based chiefly on a Brady photograph but it would appear that the artist has made a careful study of the life portraits in order to paint what is an unusually satisfying portrait of Lincoln. Oil on canvas, 30 by 25 inches. Gold leaf frame. \$275.

Shean Paint Shop, Wash. D.C.  
May 1930



SHEAN, CHARLES M.

DRAWER 19A

Artist - S

